

Interviewee: Judy Juanita

Interviewers: Mark Allan and Tiffany Caesar

Video Recorders and Student Assistants: Yoko Tomada, Kevin Kodama, Amara Obijiaku, Sydney Jackson

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Transcriber: Tiffany Caesar

Bio: “*We saved American Democracy, black people pushing for their Civil Rights...*” Judy Juanita

Judy Juanita is an award-winning poet and short story writer, novelist, essayist and playwright. She grew up in Oakland and her family came to California from Oklahoma. She went to San Francisco State University from 1966-1971 and received a BA. Judy later attended again from 1991-1993 and obtained her MFA. She was an active member of the Black Student Union at San Francisco State University and the Black Panther Party where she considered herself a worker bee. Some of her tasks included being the editor of the Black Panther Party newspaper and writing for City College newspaper on the Black Liberation Movements. Judy joined the first Black Studies Department in 1969 created at San Francisco State University due to the SFSU BSU/TWLF 1968 Student Strike. She was the youngest faculty member working with others like Dr. Nathan Hare. She taught Journalism and Black Psychology. She also taught at Berkeley High and Cal State Hayward. When Judy moved to New Jersey she taught at Montclair State and was a Poet-in-the-Schools for the NJ State Council on the Arts. Judy is currently a professor in the Berkeley College Writing Program. She has written multiple books including *Virgin Soul* that documents her participation in the 1968 SFSU Student Strike. The interview is a part of a collaborative oral history project inclusive of both students and faculty in the College of Ethnic Studies at San Francisco State University called *Voices of Truth To Power: The 1968/69 San Francisco State College Student Strike Oral History Archive of the BSU, TWLF, and Collective Community Participants*.

Abstract – *Solidarity Highlights*: 00:16:59 Judy Juanita shares the solidarity of the SFSU students going into the Bay Area community to tutor. They established programs in Fillmore, Potrero, and Hunters Point.

00:03:53 Judy Juanita describes the deaths of Martin Luther King Jr. and Little Bobby Hutton as catalyst for solidarity amongst everyone due to the devastation of their passing during the Civil Rights Movement.

Interview Transcript:

00:00:00 **Yoko Tamada:** Camera 2 rolling and we're ready.

00:00:03 **Tiffany Caesar:** Thank you so much for allowing us to come back again and we really just used this second interview just to kind of go deeper into some of the questions that we asked previously.

00:00:12 **Tiffany Caesar:** One of the things that you talked about was your work as a writer during that particular time working with the different black radical organization. I want to know if you can talk a little bit more about that.

00:00:26 **Judy Juanita:** Well, I was really a very young writer at that point. So, I worked first of all with Eldridge and Kathleen on the Black Panther newspaper. So, when my roommates and I joined the party as the first group of young people from San Francisco State to join the party and we each went, and work with a different, worked in a different capacity. So my good friends Evelyn had financial experience. She went and worked in accounting and was the party treasurer for a while. Janice Garrett Forte worked with Bobby Seale and was his scheduler. Benny Carter, the late great Benny Carter, my dear friend. We're running the office and Joanne Mitchell Stringer was the officer of the day. Often she could corral the troops and so I had lots of journalism experience, and I went and worked with Eldridge and Kathleen on the newspaper. So, rather than say it was an exalted function, It was not. I was doing whatever needed to be done. Gopher, cleaning dishes, I wasn't, in other words, I wasn't in some exalted position.

However, I was there all the time and I would be seeing like news crews just like this come in and Interview Eldridge, so it was quite an education for me, but my role changed sharply when the parties quote militant act unquote activities stepped up. So, Huey was involved in the shootout in October 1967, so we had all gotten involved during that summer. So when Huey got involved in the shootout, Eldridge immediately began the Free Huey campaign. Not immediately, but, very, very soon

after. Well, then there were many more opportunities for me to work on the paper and do editing functions because everything stepped up. The donations started flowing in and we had to get the newspaper out in a much more consistent fashion, so I just did all those, those editing kinds of function I was not a reporter on the paper. That wasn't my function there, but I over, I did a lot of overseeing of reports coming in. It was very incredible to see the worldwide national response and worldwide response to the Black Panthers, to the Black Panther Party. So, I would see things from, I don't know if you've covered it in your class. Bertrand Russell. You know?

00:03:51 **Mark Davis** : The Philosopher.

00:03:53 **Judy Juanita**: You know, he was supporting lots of the French leftist supported the party. They got support from all over and so we would, a primary function would be to put their telegrams or, you know their position papers into the paper. OK. So that was part of it.

In my book, *Virign Soul*, I put the telegram from Betty Shabazz in there also. So that was October 67 in April, April 4th, 5th, 6th. Then Martin Luther King was assassinated. And then little Bobby Hutton was assassinated. This has all happened in a three-day period. OK, so the first of all, I always maintain that coalesced Everyone - leftists, blacks, bourgeois, blacks, moderate blacks, you know, from N double ACP the nation of Islam to the Black Panther Party, Urban League Core and all of the white radical organizations.

OK, all could understand the nature of the stark nature of oppression in in the United States, and that it was focused on. Blacks who were speaking out. So for me the change came because the party leadership was decimated. In other words, Huey's in jail. You know, in the soul breaker, that's what they call the top floor of the Oakland the Alameda County Courthouse. Very top of it.

Eldridge is In Santa Rita. Many, many top leaders are either in jail for activities during that shootout that occurred where Little Bobby was killed. So, there was a meeting in Mosswood Park, Near Kaiser Hospital, Kaiser Permanente and at the meeting, we were on a grassy knoll, if you will, to avoid being taped by the FBI or the CIA and Huey, had put out a recording, a tape, a tape recording. And in the tape, he reorganized the party because so many people were. You know, yeah, missing. One person dead are the first murder, so forth, and then at one point on the tape, he said, "And I'm appointing Judy Hart", it was my name, "editor in chief of the paper. I know her from Oakland City College and she's a together sister."

You know, my then boyfriend, who became my husband and who is Clarence, Buzz Thomas, who's the international labor leader now. But at that point, our eyes just basically popped out of our head, you know. You know, but there I was, 21 down for it. So my whole life changed then. But my function at the paper didn't change as much. Ok, I wasn't on the Central Committee, the Central Committee, and basically the triumvirate, which I call welbo. Huey, Eldridge, Bobby, they were in charge no matter where they were in charge. They were sending position papers, orders for how the paper should be laid out to me, Emory and my tallava at that time, Who's now Tarika Lewis. And she was the first woman to step up and say I want to be in the Black Panther Party and to enroll in it. So I was still editing, You know, not really having Experience as an editor, having been a reporter for all the papers that I had worked on, whether they were community papers or school papers. But I quickly learned, you know, editing is taking all of this material, and we're going to get it into shape. I was just one of a series of editors of the paper.

00:08:30 **Mark Davis:** I just wanted to ask so just time wise in terms of context. So this was all in you said three days in April. And that 68 and Martin Luther King and Mr. Hutton, was killed as well. I'm just thinking about before the strikes. So wait, it was a couple of months before the strikes that the summer of 68 was crazy. And this is more news about it. I'm just trying to get a context of exactly. Was this all when he reorganized? Was this all before June of 68 before Bobby Kennedy?

00:09:16 **Judy Juanita:** Yes, this is April. This is April 68 and I was married in June. In June to June 23rd, 68, which is actually at the wedding, you know?

00:09:32 **Mark Davis:** Wow. Wow. Wow.

00:09:32 **Judy Juanita:** So you have to understand that those of us who left the campus, really didn't leave the campus. We went to the community and worked with the community in San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley, East Palo Alto, OK Marin city. I believe it is. But we all came back to the campus. Then as Black Panther members and we organized on campus, you know, and then now, like, I believe I said in our last interview, the BSU was very instrumental in using this student funding to buy guns for the Black Panther Party. That's a known fact. It's in the green books. It's not. I'm not revealing something, you know, like what we were talking about earlier. It's, you know it's out there, you know, but that's how hand in glove the Black Panther Party was And Clarence, Buzz Thomas My, then husband was the campus coordinator for the Black Panther Party. So he functioned with the Black Panther Party On campus. And the principles that we had learned as Black Panthers and in

our political education led us to formulate the strike. And you have to remember the strike, if you'll go back over your notes, it was actually started kind of like a one-day thing to get George Murray back, George was the Minister of information for the Black Panther Party.

00:11:17 **Mark Davis:** Right.

00:11:19 **Judy Juanita:** OK, but George was going around you know talking what they call incendiary language. You know, George, just the nicest person in the world. Have you interviewed him?

00:11:32 **Mark Davis:** No, not yet.

00:11:34 **Judy Juanita:** Oh nicest person in the world

00:11:36 **Mark Davis:** He's around, I assume.

00: 11: 37 **Judy Juanita:** Yeah, yeah. He's a big pastor. And then I think COGIC Church of God in Christ, I think.

00:11:44 **Mark Davis:** Here in Oakland

00:11 46: **Judy Juanita:** yeah, yeah. No, you guys need to do your work now.

00:11:49 **Judy Juanita:** Come on now. Come on now. Yeah, he was just at he pastored at somebody's funeral. You know, just a few years ago, I forget who. You know, anyway. Because I saw him on the news, you know. But anyway, yes. So yeah, so that's all happening. I mean, it was a very hectic period.

00:12:24 **Mark Davis:** I can imagine

00:12:24 **Judy Juanita:** The most hectic period in my life and now you know you all are doing what somebody did and I hope you'll do it right. But Don Cox DC.

00:12:42 **Mark Davis:** I heard of him, I heard the name

00: 12: 44 **Judy Juanita:** Yeah, I believe one of his children, wrote a book. And buzz, my ex called me up and said Judy. He said let me get this straight, you know, because here I was, I was having a baby the next year. You know, but this book had me as Judy Juanita in an airport in in Paris with Emory, you know, because that by then, Eldridge had moved to Algiers. You know, And I just wrote to the to the editor in the paper and I said it was a very busy year and I was doing a whole lot of things. I was having A baby in August and I was at Alta Bates Hospital and I can send you the birth certificate, but in future editions, please correct that.

00:13:27 **Mark Davis:** I wasn't an airport card.

00:13:35 **Judy Juanita:** And I knew it was somebody giving. Somebody in account that they didn't quite know what they were talking about. They knew that I was working on the paper, but they gave the name Judy Juanita. I did not become Judy Juanita until 1977, ok. So to say Judy Juanita was in the airport with Emory. You know, in Paris is just a complete, I don't know where they getting it from, you know, but that's what happens, You know, when we write history and her history, you know it just. different accounts say different things and people have to go back and and reiterate. No, this didn't happen, but this did happen so.

00:14:27 **Tiffany Caesar:** We spoke about being the editor, the editor of Chief of the paper, however not really having full control that people were still telling you what to do. And it sounded like primarily it was the men in leadership positions.

00:14:41 **Judy Juanita:** Yes, yes, yes.

00:14:43 **Tiffany Caesar:** So can you speak to the roles of women?

00:14:43 **Judy Juanita:** Huey, Bobby, Eldridge.

00:14:48 **Tiffany Caesar:** Can you speak to the roles of woman in the Black Panther Party, in the BSU, and the dynamic?

00:14:52 **Judy Juanita:** The Women were very active. I mean, Kathleen was, I forget her title, you know, but Kathleen was very, very active, very vocal. Erica was very active and very vocal. And those of us in the Black Student union, including my very good friends, Joanne, Betty, myself and others. We were all very vocal, very active. So when problems came up, we spoke our minds and we often got called difficult. But we still spoke our minds.

00:15:34 **Mark Davis:** I'm a big time frame person because it just for my pneumatic mind.

00:15:37 **Judy Juanita:** Yes, Sir. Yes, Sir.

00:15:42 **Mark Davis:** So the summer of 68 and then I believe in the fall semester was underway. They fired George Murray. Where in the summer and between the spring of 68 and The fall beginning of the fall semester, where was the Third World Liberation Front?

00:15:58 **Judy Juanita:** I don't know.

00:15:59 **Mark Davis:** You don't.

00:15:59 **Judy Juanita:** cause remember I was, I had just gotten married. And I was getting back into school, you know, so that I could get on a matriculation path.

00:16:10 **Mark Davis:** Right.

00:16:12 **Judy Juanita:** But I think you want to pull in. Roger, Roger Alvarado

00:16:17 **Mark Davis:** We're interviewing him.

00:16:18 **Judy Juanita:** Yeah, yeah.

00:16:19 **Mark Davis:** I'm just trying to figure out when the BSU and all the support Was coming in after Huey and everything that was going on in the hectic year. That 68 was because so much even happened in June through the Democratic National Convention and all of that because Bobby Seale was there, too. Yes, the madness of that and I'm just trying to figure out where the third World Liberation Front and the Black Student union and all those things and all the campus work that you were doing where all that kind of directed or impacted? In anticipation of the not anticipation of the strikes, but when the strikes happened how? There was just so much presence of so many people in the community

00:16:59 **Judy Juanita:** Yes, well, you have to remember that, ok, go back to the tutorial program, ok. They each one teach one that Roger was the head of ok.

00:17:13 **Mark Davis:** Right.

00:17:15 **Judy Juanita:** That was one of our great community, you know, building projects that went on and that was because we had established, when I say we, I mean the students of San Francisco State. They had established these tutorial centers throughout the Fillmore, Potrero, Hunters Point.

00:17:39 **Mark Davis:** Right. That's right.

00:17:40 **Judy Juanita:** OK, so we were out there, fanned out there, running these centers and having relations, making relationships with people in the community. The parents of our students. So that was one thing that was going on and then there was open enrollment, OK, which started with that was...Let me see...That probably was. Ooh 60. I don't know when it was but oh yes, I do know what it was. It was 67, OK. When we brought the first group of 40 students on, I believe, OK, so that was fall 67, fall 67. The first group of 40 students, I believe. I can't, you know, but it was

around then so. So we were making inroads with the community in many different respects.

And also Carlton Goodlett and this, the San Francisco Sun reporter which I worked for as a reporter around that time, was the Black Weekly. And Carlton Goodlett was a mover and a shaker and a doer and a civil rights activist. OK, Ron Dellums was a City Councilman for the city of Berkeley at that time. He hadn't yet become a congressman. And he worked with us. There were just so many, many - it was a scene.

00:19:29 **Mark Davis:** Right, absolutely.

00:19:29 **Judy Juanita:** It was, uh, people were working on many different avenues, but we were all young, you know, people in their teens, their 20s, their early 30s. And so then you had maybe somebody like a Carlton Goodlett who was very well established and I think was a millionaire at that point. But he let us have a lot of Meetings at his building at 1366 Turk. 1366 Turk, I remember that you know and we always had meetings there. So the community, we were the community and you have to understand the way that you know the way San Francisco is set up you know it's tight so most of us lived. At that time, the way San Francisco state looks now, it didn't. Look like that. At all. When I came to be interviewed. I was like, oh. My gosh, they filled it all in with buildings. That was all. Grass it was. All and it was.

00:20:28 **Mark Davis:** Is that spread out really?

00:20:31 **Judy Juanita:** It was just grass and all these buildings they put up there. There was no place people didn't want to live on campus on campus was just so unhip, you know?

00:20:46 **Judy Juanita:** Because there weren't that many there, there wasn't that much accommodation anyway. There was some Quonset huts way over. Near the near Lake Merced. And t those were mostly for married students. So who cared? The Fillmore was poppin you wanted to live in the Haight and the Fillmore. Remember, this was this was what is now termed as the summer of love.

But at that time it was just the place to be, you know, hippies, you know or like I said. \ hippie shiting in doorways, you know. Yeah, that was just the. You know, now we have homeless shiting in doorways. Come on now. Come on now you know. But hippies, we're high, you know, and doing that, that kind of. We all could get to each others houses, flats in nanoseconds. You know, we were there. You know, you could walk over and get to Jimmy Garrett's. Jimmy Garrett lived on it's I believe

McAllister, you know... And we met in his flat a lot. We met at ours. You know, we just met all over the place. And at that time. In 67 OK, there was the Black house. You have that...

00: 22:05: **Mark Davis:** Where was the Black House?

00:22:06: **Judy Juanita:** On Broderick believe I can't remember it. Maybe 1222 Broderick. It's in my book, you know, but you know. But it was on Broderick, and it was right around the corner from where we lived when we lived on Scott St. And it wasn't, you know, the Painted ladies and the Alamo. It was just Alamo Square, and we lived there, and so we have lots of stuff there, but we went around to the Black House and the Black House lasted for about a year, probably, maybe a little bit more than that a year and a half before, there were factions and it got factionalized between the cultural national and the activists, the militants.

But before then, Marvin X and Eldridge had formed an alliance, and they lived in the house. And there were many, many activities going on in that house, including political education classes, Cultural events, jazz, Lots of things going on. It was the kind of place where we, after we came from the campus, you know, either having caught the streetcar back to, you know, our neighborhood or somebody driving. Then we would just say Let's go to the Black house at night, you know, and there would be things happening. There you know.

So what I'm saying is that This what happened at San Francisco State during the strike was organic. It was a natural outgrowth for people to support us. We had supported the community. We had brought the community on campus many times. For events you know for cultural events, for readings, for protests, for performances.

We, when we were with the black art. I, as I recall, it was the black arts and culture troupe, and I was a part of it with Leroy Jones, who of course became Amira Baraka. But as a troupe we went all over the city East Palo Alto, Marin and parts of the East Bay and put on shows and, you know, went to community center and so forth. So it was a natural development that when we got ready to strike and when the strike extended, then the community came in like this and even though you know, I like to tell that my roommates and I were the first Students to join the party. Many, many people join the party and many black students also had ties to the community. So for instance, you'd have Speedy Woods and Dexter woods. You heard those names?

00:25:27 **Mark Davis:** Dexter Woods I've heard.

00:25:30 **Judy Juanita:** Dexter was captain in the party and, you know, and Speedy was a student at state. It was just a natural thing. And that's the other thing I like to emphasize. About the Black Panther Party is that? It was a family in the sense of, When you joined, you told your cousin about it, and your cousin may be joined in Oakland or in an. Another city. You know, so and your parents. While they wanted you to just get your education, just be a student. Don't get in trouble. On the other hand, understood. About the naked use of police power.

And many of our parents, including mine, came from the South, where they understood segregation and injustice in a different way than we understood it here. So our parents supported us, you know, so it was this blend of community and the students that made the strike a success it was. And also many of the professors and the faculty joined them too, for the strike. And that and many of the many of the workers. Many of the workers you know, like workers at the bookstore, workers at the cafeteria workers, you know, throughout the janitorial. They actually also were very supportive and not just supportive, they're on the front lines going out there.

00:27:18 **Tiffany Caesar:** So when we think about everything that was happening, the death of the leaders, participation in the Bay Area, my question is concerning, After the after the strike, how do you feel that you were able to Recover after that experience and how were your guess cohort of people working with you able to recover? Were there any traumas, mental illnesses, or things of that nature because we've spoken to some people who had traumatic experiences in which they had to take care of themselves after the strike, so I'm wondering if you can talk a little bit about the aftercare of that particular event.

00:28:16 **Judy Juanita:** Excuse me, I don't think I can because for us it was a continuous movement from the strike to then the Black Studies Department and fighting to get the black studies department off, so we weren't sitting around nursing our wounds.

But I do recall that there were people You know who whose matriculation had been interrupted...Yeah, yeah. You know, but that wasn't. I can't speak to that because that wasn't my experience at that moment. Remember, I had just gotten appointed to the Black Studies department, so all of a sudden I was trying to pull it together and do a lot of reading that I hadn't done. And do a lot of, you know, prep to be in the classroom at that point. And also I just had a baby, you know. So I was going back to the classroom when I was five weeks, 5 weeks post.

00:29:28 **Mark Davis:** As a teacher.

00:29:31 **Judy Juanita:** OK, so it was a very hectic period and it was not only hectic period for me, but let's go back, please go into the United States. You know it was hectic and also The FBI and the CIA then were very active in Cointelpro, OK, so. There was a lot going on.

If there was trauma. Maybe some people got high to deal with it. You know that that was a lot of. There was a lot of drug usage going on and you know, and I was, I was kind of a purist, you know, in terms of health. I just wanted this healthy baby and that's when I got into health foods a great deal. When I was pregnant, about four months of pregnant, I just said, you know, I straightened up, you know, and tried to fly, right, so. I don't know. You know, I can't speak for that I think somebody else would have to speak for that. We were all busy. We were very, very busy.

00:30:49 **Mark Davis:** Can I ask you about, excuse me about. The execution of Fred Hampton.

00:30:58 **Judy Juanita:** I'd be so far removed from it, you know.

00:31:01 **Mark Davis:** At that. Time

00:31:01 **Judy Juanita:** Yeah, yeah.

00:31:03 **Mark Davis:** So one last one. One quick one. You were saying about the strikes being organic, I been talking with Doctor Garrett, I also just realized and I kind of knew this all along, but the strikes weren't inevitable. It wasn't like all this organizing everything you were doing was like, OK, so when we have a strike, we'll be ready. It was never. Like that, right? It just happened and Well, it didn't just happen, but yeah, everything came together and it was clear right, as after the one, the supposed one day strike that this was going to last. But the mechanism of the BSU, the Central Committee and Rogers. You know, I can't remember who all was with the third World Liberation Front, but it was all it was in.

00:31:53 **Mark Davis:** It was all there.

00:31:54 **Judy Juanita:** It was kind of coalescing and getting into place right about right about that time. Because, you know, people like to, like to say you know, like to act like the Black Panther Party or the BSU, you know, were just those people who were in it, but It was a wave of activism that swept over the Bay Area and through the United States, also, so that when these Student like at Cornell, when the student activists we student activists said it, you know, set it off, so to speak. It was

like Domino's, you know, it just it just happened. And that's why, you know, you all are the fruit. That you know, several generations later, you know.

00:32:59 **Tiffany Caesar:** Can you speak to the training that you receive as a member of these organizations, the BSU and Black Panther part and how that impacted you later on in your careers?

00:33:17 **Judy Juanita:** Yes, Fortunately, or unfortunately. You know, I saw When I was going through my education as a young woman and in these political education classes and reading and going to rallies and listening, listening very well, I understood. What we could call the real nature of American Society, I understood then at that time. Would in a way I never had even thought of before the military industrial complex. You know, I understood that, you know, I understood The class system in a way that I hadn't understood it before.

So that's what happened when we were active in the Black Panther Party. You know for in that period is very short period from 67, the beginning of 67, You know, to you know, basically a year, 67. That we got radicalized.

But in the years before that though Black people were coming to a different understanding Of our place in this society, and it was through the civil rights movement which, as I said, I see it and some others as one spectrum. So all of that changed my thinking.

Ok, so the black students, the negro students who had come to San Francisco state before I came there, and probably numbered maybe 7 or 800 out of maybe 18,000 students -they were training to become Middle class People, social workers, teachers, accountants, administrators... With what I Call a downward glancing OK, looking down at. the people Who weren't able to get their education OK and they would come in as social workers, you know, to help the lesser. That all changed. That was cut.

We understood the equality of people, you know, and that was the civil rights movement and the black power movement. We understood. Not everyone's equal, you know, and that pose of the black middle class Was useless and it was a fraud and it wasn't helping. Wasn't helping the black middle class. You know, and definitely wasn't helping those who were suffering. So, when we did the tutorial program then then we changed ourselves. You know, we were students who were going in kind of as students in a flip kind of attitude. But once you're there and you're bringing these children home to scenes of chaos, you know, and to circumstances

where perhaps they weren't being fed or they weren't being taken care of, or they didn't have sufficient clothing, that changed us. OK, so not only the experience, the actual practical experience of helping with the tutorial. Program and many of the other programs of service that the, the Panthers and other organizations had combined with Reading Franz Fanon, reading Carter G Woodson's black history all the reading and the practical experience, then combined. So it changed us. It changed us.

You know my roommate, Joanne Mitchell Stringer, she told me You know that she was so happy that, you know, she went through the experience. She then worked. You know, she ran a mini. She was a top administrator running childcare centers throughout Hunters point that area.

We, the students who came in before us. They weren't on that track. You know, they were becoming members of the black bourgeoisie. They were joining sororities and fraternities, which at that time didn't have the service components as strongly emphasized as they do now. I say it's because of the black movement that they understood. You know, and changed that overcast but the overarching theme for the fraternities and sororities was a colorism and partyism. That was it, baby. You know? and you know that I could see before I even quote became a militant that wasn't my scene. No, I grew up with that and he Stockland. No, no high yellow stuff. Not for me. So I didn't even, I didn't even, you know, I didn't even, I didn't even take one minute. Said are you are. You going to become an adult? Delta, you know, because Delta was for brown skinned girls and AKA was for white. And so I said no, I'm not going. To be any of it.

And my mother. Who had got my mother and father went to Langston University in Oklahoma. My mother had told me all about the breakdown when she was young and how cruel the sororities and fraternities were. And I, don't know if it's Apocryphal said the word you know, but apparently one of the fraternities tied a boy to a railroad track, and the railroad train ran over him because he couldn't loosen himself. I don't know if the truth or not, or maybe my mom. My mom was a great storyteller, but I didn't want anything to do with them, you know, and I didn't think it was. I didn't think their goals, you know, to buy \$200.00 suits from Saks 5th Ave. I didn't think their goals were that great. Anyway, you know that was not how I was going to spend my time. So you know, and I loved the natural, you know, and I would look at the one or two young women that I would see in the Bay Area who

wear their hair like that and I just thought. I think they're beautiful, you know, so. Yeah. What was the question?

00:40:57 **Tiffany Caesar:** During this time period, there was also a lot of things going on for African liberation in the sense that a lot of countries in Africa were getting black President for the first time, but also when we think of the black identity within the US, it's not just, you know African Americans. We have people from the Caribbeans, people from the continent.

I wanted to know if you can talk about the how was the relationship with the different black identities On campus and within these particular organizations, because there were discussion of some who.

00:41:40 **Judy Juanita:** I didn't see it. I didn't see it so much when I was in undergrad. OK, now when we had the black studies department, then some of the professors who came immediately were from other countries. OK, so **Aoayedi Amoda**. I knew very well. Doctor **Emoto**, he had gotten his political science doctorate from Berkeley, and I knew him well. But I didn't know them that well. I mean, no other Africans. You'd have to interview someone else about that.

00:42:24 **Tiffany Caesar:** Ok. Thank you.

00:42:25 **Judy Juanita:** I I'm always going to say I don't know. I wasn't there, you know, my life was real, real, full. But that wasn't part of it.

00:42:38 **Tiffany Caesar:** I guess did you have any more questions before?

00:42:41 **Mark Davis:** I just have one more question about Doctor Hare. So as you were preparing to join the faculty. You had graduated, no? And then so.

00:42:52 **Judy Juanita:** Five days after I graduated, I was asked to join the faculty, which is another five days after I had the baby.

00:43:02 **Mark Davis:** And so doctor Hare was your leader.

00:43:06 **Judy Juanita:** Yes, yes.

00:43:07 **Mark Davis:** Could you just talk a Little bit about what that experience was like.

00:43:10 **Judy Juanita:** And can you give me some more direct questions?

00:43:13 **Mark Davis:** Yeah, sure, sure. So you.

00:43:16 **Judy Juanita:** Know well, Doctor Hare is a character you know. It's wonderful, and of course, we had all read his book, *The Black Anglo Saxons*. What's, what's the name of Doctor Hare's book?

00:43:26 **Mark Davis:** I think it's the blocking.

00:43:29 **Judy Juanita:** Anyway, yeah, we had already. Yeah, come on. You know, we had read his book and we loved his experience at Howard, which was about encountering this black bourgeoisie and being booted out of there.

00:43:45 **Mark Davis:** You know, he came on the heels of the convocation of Black studies, which I believe Leroy Jones read but many people were working on it on the I guess the presentation or the opening of the complication of the black studies program.

00:44:03 **Judy Juanita:** I don't know what you're talking about. When you said convocation.

00:44:05 **Mark Davis:** Well, I guess that's how Doctor Garrett described it. Was that the I guess the beginning of the semester when the program was in place and how you all entered into it. Yeah, the fall was 69. That a lot of work had so much work had gone into planning and organizing that I was just wondering how you entered into the semester with your courses in place. Do you remember what you taught and?

00:44:31 **Judy Juanita:** I taught black journalism and black psychology. So I was a psychology major. And then of course I had tons of experience as a journalist. So my focus was more on the black journalism course, because I had edited the strike journal, I was the editor of the Strike Journal and then I had worked and my Panther paper. And also I had worked on many, I worked at the San Francisco Sun Reporter and worked on many, many community newspapers and school papers. So I taught those two classes. I seem to remember a paper called, So you want to teach black journalism. You know, I just remember that and I just detailed the history of the freedom journals from Frederick Douglass on up through sell. So my approach has generally always been a historical approach.

I don't think that I really was so qualified to teach black psychology and Wade Nobles was supposed to get the position, but actually Vernon Smith was supposed to take the position. And Vernon Smith got hired. No, Vernon Smith took this got into the Fred friendly program for minority journalists at Columbia University and he went there instead and they needed somebody in the position.

And then, and I'm sure it was in part due to, yeah, my stellar qualifications. But it was also important due to the fact that I was the wife of a leading member of the Central Committee and of the strike effort, you know, so I don't. I don't ever fool myself, but still about that. But at the same time it was an incredible opportunity, But Wade Nobles was supposed to get the position, but and he did eventually, Wade came in and because he had the proper credentials, he had the doctorate.

So forth. And did a did a bang up job. I've had many, many people who've taken his courses and become acolytes of Wade Nobles. So I understand. But at that time, at that time, the students we were in charge, we were, we ran the campus.

So it's really funny, When I came back like I said, and I'm saying this again, when I came back in 91, 92, 93 and got my MFA, you know, I looked and I said, oh, ok, I get this. This is the lesbian mafia now, you know? And I said to somebody, I said it was just like. We were in it. I was like, we were the Black Mafia, you know we strong armed and we ran the campus. I mean it was quite a different experience when we Left and we were no longer powerful students at San Francisco State, and we had to get out on the job market with everybody else you know.

And so then like I said, I'm looking at the campuses, particularly in the last maybe ten years and saying ok, now it's the Asians turn, it looks like it's the Asian mafia. Mafia to me, I don't know, you know, but I get it. You know, there's. I have no objection per say to that. As long as people. Remember that the allegiance is always to people of color, aiding the struggle that people of color continue to have in this society, and particularly black people who always are on the bottom. And as we see in the struggles with police brutality, suffer the most, suffer the most. We are, as I said recently, exterminated Like vermin. OK, so as long as people can't understand that I have no problem, you know. Because why?

Because it's like a stage play. Life is like a stage play. You know, the blacks came on during the after the civil rights movement, during the civil rights movement, the Black Power movement, and we were center stage. And because of what we did, you know, television is different. Media is different, accommodations are different. And then we showed everyone direct action and then other people began to You know, began to fight for their rights in a way that yielded permanent, or what looks like permanent change in this society. looks very much like change to me.

00:49:33 **Mark Davis:** Thank you so much.

00:49:36 **Tiffany Caesar:** As you know, we are currently going through a lot in the US, Black Lives Matter, reparations, the issues of teaching African American studies and the curriculum. What advice would you give to parents, students, activists, and people who are participating in these particular movements that are happening?

00:50:04 **Judy Juanita:** I like the fact that people are taking up Not little arms anymore. But you know they're arming themselves with knowledge and they're participating directly, they're getting involved in their communities at whatever level. So I like the phrase, Think globally, but act locally and I think as long as people will keep doing that and they have to because our society has broken.

Ok, Flint, MI is our great example. You know you can't when the water starts coming out of your sink brown. Coming out of your kitchen and bathroom sinks brown, you have to take action. You can't just sit there and say it's over there. It's over there. I'm going to go to work and just it's going to be business as usual.

No, no. When Katrina happened and pushed people out of New Orleans. Those people had to go somewhere, and somebody has to advocate for them, Somebody has to help them. You know, they can't just stay in the arena in where was Houston or Dallas where, you know, former first Lady Barbara Bush said, "Oh well, I think where they're staying is probably better than where they were". What is that 4th ward in in New Orleans? You know? No, no, no. All of these problems are in our face now, and we can't ignore them.

So for people to do whatever they can. Whether they want to or not, it's not. It has nothing to do with any advice I have to give them any advice. Anybody has to give them, your water comes out looking like doo doo you have to do something period period or you're not going to live another day. OK. It's just not going to happen when there's. You know, people are shitting in your doorstep. You have to do something.

You know, I would finish grading my papers on Saturday. I would stay at Laney late. I was taught that just as an artist, teacher, artist, slash teacher, do all your do your work on site so that when you come home and you do your artist work, you know there's a separation well. How long could I maintain that distance from being an activist when I opened my classroom door after I finished two or three hours of grading? And then there's a pile of human excrement right there. Because Laney College, where I used to teach, is right in the middle in the heart of the urban area and it's a zone where there are many homeless encampments, You know. You can ignore it if you want, but it's going to come right up to your doorstep at some point. You know, so it's better to try to be proactive, to try to get involved in some cause

now rather than, you know Tripping, you know, and thinking this doesn't involve me right now. I've got to do XY&Z. Well, no, No, it all of us have to take some kind of action at some point regularly.

00:53:45 **Tiffany Caesar:** Thank you so much.

00:53:47 **Judy Juanita:** You're welcome.

00:53:49 **Tiffany Caesar:** I don't have anymore questions.

00:53:51 **Mark Davis:** No, I don't. I mean, of course I have many more questions, but.

00:53:56 **Tiffany Caesar:** Thank you so much for allowing us to follow up.

00:53:57 **Judy Juanita:** Thank you all.

00:53:59 **Tiffany Caesar:** Your beautiful home in Oakland.

00:54:06 **Judy Juanita:** My beautiful you know, everything in here is second. Hand. Yeah, mine. Too clearance or something but but I.

00:54:10 **Yoko Tamada:** Our sentence.

00:54:13 **Judy Juanita:** It's it's well decorated. Ohh, thank you, sweetie.

00:54:17 **Judy Juanita:** It's big fun. It's big.

00:54:18 **Tiffany Caesar:** Yes, we can cut the camera, yes.

00:54:18 **Judy Juanita:** Fun I'm here. Thank you.